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elegant specimen of the progress this town is making towards perfection in an art to which human knowledge stands so much indebted.

I am, Sir, wishing success to every Literary undertaking, especially within the precincts of our own Province,

Your obedient Servant,

Sept. 28, 1808. A FARMER.

In addition to the preceding remarks of this Correspondent, the Monthly Magazine inserts the following Preface, which appears in the first Fasciculus of the Society alluded to.

ADVERTISEMENT.

*The Belfast Literary Society was formed in the year 1808....The objects of the original members were, mutual communications on literary subjects, and the investigation of the Antiquities, political economy, and history, natural and civil, of the county of Antrim. If they have extended their plan beyond these limits, it is not from an ambition to rival societies established in more favourable situations, and supplied with more abundant means of information; but with a hope of contributing in some degree to the general stock of literature and science; fostering the rising taste of their native province, and throwing additional light on a district, that has of late attracted the curiosity of philosophers, and with respect to which, they enjoy so many local advantages....With the same views they now present the public with a selection from their papers....Such memoirs, as may not be distinguished by taste or learning, will, it is hoped be received with pleasure by the public, and indulgence by the learned, if they tend to promote the improvement of their own vicinity, and disseminate a knowledge of their native country.*

*It is intended to publish a fasciculus twice in every year, in the months of May and November. Communications from any quarter will, if approved by*

*the committee of revision, be printed with those from the members: but all the writers are to be held individually responsible for the accuracy of their style, observations, experiments and statements of facts.*

*Their Bookseller will furnish separate fasciculi, receive orders for sets of the Society's papers, and furnish a title-page, preface, and table of contents on the completion of the first volume.*

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOUR correspondent who wished for a poetical translation of Dr. Pitcairn's lines on Lord Dundas, was, I presume, ignorant that they had already been translated by Dryden. Yet though they have been clothed in an English dress, by one whose name renders the attempt at competition almost presumptuous, I would fain hope that some of your poetical friends may be induced to favour us with a new translation.

In great attempts 'tis glorious even to fail: though such an effort could scarcely be successful, it would be the surest means of improvement. As the English verses are not generally known, I annex them for the gratification of your readers.

" Oh ! last and best of Scots, who didst maintain  
Thy country's freedom from a foreign  
reign;  
New people fill the land, now thou art  
gone,  
New gods the temples, and new kings the  
throne;  
Scotland and thou didst in each other live,  
Nor wouldest thou her, nor could she thee  
survive.  
Farewell! who dying didst support the  
state,  
And couldst not fall but with thy country's  
fate.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

HISTORY.

The History of the Antient Borough of Pontefract, by B. Boothroyd, 8vo. 10s. boards.

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Herodoti Halicarnassei Historiarum, Lib. 9 2 vols. 8vo. 18s. boards.

## BIOGRAPHY.

*Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick*, by Thos. Davies, a new edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 14s. boards.

*Lives of Antient Philosophers*, translated from the French, of Fenelon by Rev. J. Cormack, 2d edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 12s. boards.

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*Hints to both parties*; or, *Observations on the proceedings in Parliament upon the Petition against the Orders in Council, &c.* 2s. 6d.

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## RELIGION.

*An Illustration of the general evidences establishing the reality of Christ's Resurrection*, by G. Gilchrist, 1 vol. 8vo. 7s. boards.

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*The Dramatic Appellant*; or remarks on several Dramatic Pieces, No. 2, demy 8vo. 5s.

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of the Pantomime Royal, at Madrid, 1s. Asiatic Researches, vol. 9th, 4to. 11. 11s. 6d.

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Remarks on the present state of the Lunatic Asylums in Ireland; by Andrew Halliday, M. D. 8vo. 3s. 6d.

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The Review of Publications of Art, No. 3. 2s. 6d.

Satirist; or Monthly Meteor, No. 12, 2s. 6d.

Antijacobin Review and Magazine, for August, No. 122.

The British Cicero; or a Selection of the most admired Speeches in the English Language, by Thos. Browne, 3 vols. 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d. boards.

The Librarian, No. 3, by James Savage, 1s.

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Agriculture the Source of Wealth to Great Britain; by Wm. Spence, second edition, 3s. 6d. boards.

La Belle Assemblée, No. 35, 2s. 6d.

Selection of Papers of the Belfast Literary Society. Fasciculus 1st, 4to 2s. 2d. sewed.

## MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

THE detail of important events, of battles imperfectly known, and of a convention, without parallel, of dreadful preparation for the sanguinary scenes of war, of the convulsions of despotism, but little of the calm progress of human happiness, now requires our attention, and the patience of our readers. We again trouble them to bear in mind, that we write for public good, and will not shrink, in that sacred cause, from the fidelity and boldness befitting it. The situation of the English and French armies in Portugal, in the early part of last August, we noticed to be highly interesting. The reputation of the French Commander, and the ardour and discipline of his troops, promised enterprize and decision. The English army, commanded by an officer of high military name, and themselves eager to cope with the conquerors of the Continent, were determined to secure the first grand advantage on the Continent which opportunity presented to them. Junot marched from Lisbon to meet them, and, in the presumptuous confidence of victory, bade his men drive the English into the sea.

A trifling affair near Brilos, which ended by General Spencer, with his usual prudence, extricating the English riflemen, who had advanced too far, was the prelude to Sir Arthur Wel-

lesley's attack on the 17th of August. The enemy occupied a strong position, with about 6000 men. Great gallantry was shown on both sides, and the French appear to have manifested singular military skill in manœuvring, as well as impetuosity in attack. The British army, of which only a part was engaged, prevailed, but the French succeeded in effecting their retreat in good order. The want of cavalry is noticed by Sir Arthur Wellesley as the principal cause of the enemy having escaped so well. On the morning of the 21st, the French General attacked the English at Vimiera. His object was to anticipate the reinforcements from England, and by something very decisive, to enable himself to turn his arms towards Spain. The attack by the French army was made in two places, nearly at the same time. A desperate contest ensued. The Duke d'Albrantes commanded in person, and was somewhat superior in cavalry and artillery. The fate of Portugal, of Spain, hung upon the day. The British and French found themselves opposed, for the first time after a long interval, on the Continent. The former were finally successful, taking thirteen pieces of cannon, and much ammunition. A French General Officer was taken prisoner, and another was found dead on